



# Kennel Connection

*Winding Road Kennel*

## PETS & PLANTING SPRING GARDENS

### JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER:

- Effective April 1, 2018, we will be requiring the Canine Influenza vaccination for all of our doggie campers.
- All dogs that board or groom with us must be current on their Rabies, DHLPP, Bordetella, and Canine Influenza vaccinations.



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Spring is here and for many of us that means planting gardens. But, did you know that many popular plants, flowers and gardening products can be toxic to dogs and cats? Before you starting planting, here are a few things you should know.

- Many common plants are toxic to animals. Hyacinths, lilies, daffodils, sago palms, tulips and begonias, just to name a few, can be toxic to animals. Pet owners should be cautious when planting these particular flowers, especially if they own a pet that tends to eat things that they shouldn't. Instead, try nontoxic plants such as African violets or magnolias. For a more

extensive list of plants and flowers that are and are not dangerous to your pets, visit the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center's Toxic and Non-Toxic Plant List.

- Garden products like cocoa mulch and metaldehyde- and iron-based snail baits can be extremely toxic and even deadly to animals. Signs of poisoning may include drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, and muscle tremors.
- Even organic products can be dangerous for your pets. Organic substances such as blood meal, bone meal and compost fertilizer can cause some serious problems in our pets. The

bottom line: just because it's organic doesn't mean it's safe for our pets.

- If you use a lawn service to care for your lawn, let them know you own pets. Ask them to use only products that are safe for your pets. You can also request a receipt that lists all the products used on your lawn.
- You may also need to protect your garden from your pet! If you have a digger, you may want to surround your garden with pet proof fencing or install raised garden beds instead of ground level ones.

Happy Gardening!

## IT'S THE SEASON...FOR ALLERGIES!

Springtime can cause allergies to flare up in humans and pets. With the release of pollens from trees, grasses and flowers, a dog with allergies will suffer. Treatments for dog allergies include antihistamines, immunotherapy, and topical creams. There are three different types of allergies in dogs: contact allergy, inhalant allergy and flea allergy. Contact allergy occurs in the spring when the

dog's skin has an allergic reaction to pollen, and triggers swelling and itching. The skin will become flaky and dry, and the dog will begin to scratch excessively. The dog's feet are sensitive and they may begin to lick or chew on them to remedy the itching. An inhalant allergy is caused when the dog breathes in tree, grass and weed pollens, which can lead to itching and respiratory prob-

lems. Flea allergies are often worse in the spring, as the flea has lied dormant all winter. A dog allergic to fleas will suffer severe itching and swelling of the infected area. The dog may scratch, bite, lick or chew the affected area, often resulting in loss of hair and open sores. If your pet is suffering from allergies, talk to your vet about the best method of treatment.



## TRAVELING WITH YOUR PET

We all wish we could take our dog with us everywhere we go. After all, they are a part of our family, so why shouldn't they be included in family vacations? Well, here are some things to consider before you decide to travel with your dogs.

The first thing to consider is does your dog like to travel? Most dogs are pretty comfy in the car and don't mind car rides. There are some dogs, however, that do not like to ride in cars, especially on long trips.

Secondly, make sure that your dog is up to date on all their shots and their identification tags are all updated. Research the area in which you plan to travel with

your dog. Check to see if any additional vaccinations are required in the area you will be visiting. If you are taking your pet across state or international borders, a health certificate as well as other documentation may be required.

Make sure that dogs are welcome where you will be staying. Many hotels and campgrounds are pet friendly, however, sometimes there are breed restrictions. If staying with family, talk to them about bringing your dog. If they have pets, you want to make sure that they are socialized and friendly before bringing your pets into their homes.

If you decide to bring your dog along, be sure to pack their shot records, copies of

medical history from your vet, medication, food, bowls, crates, leashes, bottled water, toys, blankets and a collar.

The last thing to keep in mind is that although your dog is healthy and up to date on their shots, that doesn't mean everyone's dog is as well. Perfectly healthy dogs can get sick if exposed to an unhealthy dog. Kennel cough and dog influenza both are spread very easily. Although our area has not been affected yet by the dog flu, some states have reported cases. Research where you are going before you go! Make sure any boarding facility that you use out of town requires the bordatella vaccination and the canine influenza vaccination.

## PET INSURANCE

Pet insurance, or veterinary health insurance for your cat or dog, is about being prepared for the unexpected. Having a good pet insurance policy gives you financial protection—in the event that you are faced with a \$2,000—\$6,000 emergency surgery vet bill, a good insurance policy will pay at least 90% of it.

When purchasing pet insurance, there are three types of coverage: Comprehensive: accidents and illnesses; Accidents Only; and Wellness Coverage (Preventative Care).

Comprehensive coverage is the best coverage because it covers accidents and illnesses. Things like broken bones, swallowed objects, cancer, diabetes, ear infections and numerous other conditions would all be covered with this type of insurance.

Accident Only coverage is just

that—it only pays for accidents. This is great of course, but overall, you should look into an insurance policy that also contains illness and disease coverage.

Wellness plans only cover routine procedures such as annual exams, vaccinations, and flea and heartworm preventative. Most pet owners budget these expenses into their budget so wellness plans aren't highly recommended.

When shopping around for pet insurance, make sure your policy covers expenses such as accidents and illnesses, hereditary, congenital and chronic conditions, diagnostic tests, emergency care, hospitalization, specialist care, prescription medication and surgery.

Some of the top rated companies that offer pet insurance are Healthy Paws, Pet Plan, Embrace, Nationwide, FIGO,

Pet First, and Pets Best.

Talk to your veterinarian before purchasing a plan. Make sure they accept the company that you are interested in or ask for recommendations. There's a lot of information out there and it can be a little confusing and daunting to look at. The cost of pet insurance may not be as expensive as you think. For cats, the average monthly cost of coverage is between \$15 and \$18 a month. For dogs, expect to pay \$22 to \$28 a month, depending on the age and breed of the dog. Most companies offer at least two levels of coverage: basic and premium.

Definitely do some research before making your final decision. There are a lot of options out there and one of them is just right for you and your pets!





## THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR DOG

Your dog is your best friend. Your companion. Your trusted side kick. He knows what you like and when you are upset. You know where his tickle spot is, what his favorite toy is, what he likes to eat; but we bet there's a lot you don't know about your dog.

Most dogs are more aggressive when being walked by a man than by a woman.

Not all tail wagging is good. A dog's wag is actually based on three moods—when he's happy, when he's agitated and when he's scared.

Small breeds mature faster than bigger breeds.

Male dogs prefer to hang out with female dogs, but female dogs play well with both genders.

A dog's nose print is just as unique as a human's finger print and can be used for identification purposes.

City dogs, on average, live longer than country dogs.

The smartest breeds of dogs can understand up to 250 words, while the average dog can process 150. Smartest breeds include Border Collies, Poodles, German Shepherds, Golden Retrievers and Doberman Pinschers.

Small dogs have more dreams than big dogs, but big dog's dreams last longer.

Dogs on a leash are twice as likely to threaten other dogs.

Secondhand smoke can cause dogs to develop nasal tumors or even lung cancer.

Puppies are born blind and deaf and toothless.

A dog can hear sounds four times farther away than humans.

Regardless of how it appears, dogs do not feel guilt. According to researchers, that "guilty look" your dog gives you has more to do with your perception than his intention.

According to a study done by the Ameri-

can Animal Hospital Association, 70% of dog owners sign their pet's name on greeting cards.

The Bible mentions dogs 14 times. Cats aren't mentioned at all.....

Petting a dog has been proven to lower blood pressure.

Think spading and neutering isn't really that important? One female dog and her female offspring can produce over 4,000 puppies in a seven year span.

Three dogs survived the sinking of the Titanic. Sadly, nine dogs perished aboard the ship.

According to a study, dogs become jealous when they see another dog being rewarded.

The Guinness Book of World Records lists the oldest dog at 29 years old—an Australian Cattle Dog named Bluey.

The popular dog name Fido is Latin for fidelity.

## CRAZY PET LAWS



There are some weird and wonderful laws throughout our country that pertain to pets. Bet you didn't know some of these!

In Alaska, it is illegal to tie your dog to the roof of your car.

After 6:00 p.m., dogs in Little Rock, Arkansas are banned

from barking.

If you lose your pet bird in Berkley, California, you are not permitted to whistle to attract it before 7:00 a.m.

Wife mad at you? Good thing you don't live in Idaho. It's illegal there for a human to sleep in a dog house.

In Illinois, it is illegal to give a dog whiskey or a lighted cigar.

Cops in Paulding County, Ohio can bite a dog to calm them down.

In Maryland, it is illegal to take your pet lion to the cinema.





*Winding Road Kennel*  
**Your Pets Home Away From Home**



**Camper of the Month**

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**Okie Albright**



**KENNEL NEWS**

All of us here at the kennel want to wish you a Happy Easter! We celebrated the holiday here by participating in Parkersburg's Easter Parade and we also had our Fourth Annual Easter Egg Hunt for Dogs for our doggie campers. Check our Facebook page for pictures of the festivities.

Woof Fest is right around the corner! Join us on April 29th from noon to 4:00 p.m. at Mountwood Park for a fun filled afternoon. Bring your kids and your dogs to the park to enjoy some special planned activities, contests, demonstrations, vendors and more!

We are teaming up with the City of Vienna again this year for Pet Celebration Day. This year we will be at Jackson Dog Parks on Saturday, May 5th from noon to 3. We will be celebrating our pets Cinco de Mayo style! We have some fun games planned—a family scavenger hunt, a Bean Race, and a game of Mexican Kick Ball. We are also having a Cute Chihuahua Contest AND a Chihuahua Impersonator Contest.

Spring is here and for us at the kennel that means we are getting busier and busier. The groom shop is bustling, the kennels are filling up! If you have summer vacation plans, be sure to make your

boarding reservations soon. Groom appointments should be made a couple of weeks in advance.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Paws to Help program, drop us an email or give us a call and we will explain what you need to do. We are in need of volunteers to help walk senior citizens dogs. This wonderful program helps seniors keep their pets at home with them as long as possible. We've paired up with FaithLink to create and coordinate Paws to Help. It's a rewarding feeling knowing that you've helped a senior and their best furry friend!